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Newsletter

Pipeline Open Data Standard

www.pods.org

February 2007

PODS™ is the pipeline industry database standard. The PODS Association Board of Directors is composed of pipeline industry leaders who volunteer their time to direct the activities and priorities of the Association. The PODS data model is developed by the Technical Committee which is also composed of industry leaders who volunteer their time.

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Welcome New Members

The James W. Sewall Company

DeLorme

[Complete list of members](#)

2007 Board Elections

Annual Board of Directors elections began February 1 with the nomination process. Five seats are available for election/re-election. Any member in good standing can nominate qualified candidates for election.

Board membership requires a two year commitment and active involvement in the organization. *Nominations will continue through the close of business March 2, 2007.*

The primary responsibility of the Board is to direct the organization and Technical Committee in developing data storage and exchange standards to meet the evolving needs of our industry.

Board Members must have a strong interest in PODS, and a desire and willingness to promote and advance the standards of the organization within our industry. Board membership requires two to four hours per month including a monthly teleconference (about 1½ hours). In addition, twice each year, the Board meets face to face, typically the days immediately after the ESRI PUG Conference and the GITA Oil & Gas Conference, both held in Houston, TX. Those members attending these conferences, are also asked to participate in staffing the PODS booth, and hosting duties associated with the annual User Group Meeting held after the GITA Oil & Gas Conference.

Would you like to nominate someone?

If you would like to nominate someone please contact [Sheila Wilson](#). If you have questions about the time involved, please contact [Sheila Wilson](#) or one of the [current Board Members](#).

Government Industry Pipeline Research and Development Forum

The PODS Association was at the [PHMSA Public Meetings and Documents: Government/Industry Pipeline Research and Development Forum](#), February 7-8, 2007, in New Orleans. PODS helped organize and facilitate the Data Mining/Threat Assessment Session.

The goal of the session was to determine the three greatest gaps of the pipeline industry with respect to data mining and threat assessment. Approximately 30 people attended the session: operators, service providers, and regulators. The group identified 50 gaps which were subdivided into nine categories. The primary issue as determined by the group is data standards and exchanges (see below), receiving more than 75% of the votes.

The top three gaps have been defined as:

1. Interchange standards and tools between operators and regulators to make reporting easier.
2. Advanced risk management tools and technologies:
 - Holistic approach to risk management/threat assessments
 - Evolution of algorithm standards
 - Predictive modeling systems

- Systemic analysis of trends
 - Implementation of quantitative and predictive models
3. Best practices for enterprise integration to reduce integration and migration issues.

PODS provides the industry interchange standard for ILI IDX and is currently working with NACE to finalize the standard for the ECDA IDX. Our members are actively working to address other interchange standards as well as each of the gaps defined by the Forum.

After February 20, you will be able to view the complete results of the DOT Research & Development Forum at primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd/.

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PUG 2007

Look for us at the [ESRI Petroleum User Group Conference](#) in Houston, February 26-28, 2007. Please drop by our booth. We will have Board Members, Technical Committee Members, and the Executive Director available to meet you. While at our booth, we will give you a copy of the PODS 4.0 diagram and information about the different activities within PODS.

The PODS Association is also presenting at PUG. Mike King, BP, will be presenting a paper at PUG about the expectations and progress of the PODS Spatial Committee. To learn more about the spatial implementation of PODS, please attend his presentation.

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Tell Us More About YOU!

Are you a member of the PODS Association? We need your information! Many people call the PODS Association requesting information about service providers and vendors. Because we are vendor neutral, we refer inquiries to our member webpage. If you will send us information about your company, including services you provide, we will post the information on the PODS website. The sooner you send it – the faster we'll post it! Please keep your descriptions brief.

We will also post information for pipeline operators, government agencies, and associations.

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One Call Working Group (in development)

The One Call Working Group has begun. The group has selected two co-chairpersons, submitted a charter to Board, and begun development of the standard. The Board is expected to approve the charter during the March board meeting. The objective of the working group is to address and identify the One Call/Damage Prevention data requirements that are relevant to the overall PODS working data model. If you are interested in helping with the working group, please contact [Sheila Wilson](#) at PODS.

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ECDA Working Group: External Corrosion Direct Assessment

The final draft of the NACE/PODS ECDA Interchange standard has been submitted to [NACE](#) for review and ballot. The NACE ballot is expected to be finalized by the end of February. Keep watch for the new interchange standard.

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PODS Spatial Committee

The PODS Spatial Committee has been actively working with ESRI and APDM to develop a spatial implementation of PODS which will be called the PODS ESRI Geodatabase. Mike King, BP, is the chairman of the PODS Spatial Committee. He will be presenting a paper at PUG about the expectations and progress of the committee.

PODS Spatial has been actively working with Oracle Spatial to develop a spatial implementation of PODS for Oracle Spatial users. The PODS Spatial Working Group, Oracle Spatial, and the Technical Committee have met to discuss the steps necessary for the implementation.

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PODS Members

The PODS Association has 74 members. We have at least one company with a home office (based) on every continent except Antarctica. The operators have more than 491,000 kilometers (305,000 miles) of pipeline in almost every country in the world. The pipelines are used to transport both liquids and gases, including gasoline, natural gas, crude oil, diesel, propane, isobutene, hydrogen, and more. The breakdown of membership by country:

- Australia – 1
- Austria – 1

- Canada – 9
- China – 2
- France – 2
- Germany – 2
- India – 2
- Indonesia – 1
- Netherlands – 1
- Norway – 1
- Russia – 2
- United States – 50

The breakdown of membership by type:

- 1 association
- 2 government agencies (State of Washington, USA, and Indonesia)
- 24 operators
- 47 vendors

For more information, please visit the [PODS website](#).

Do you work with a company that uses PODS but is not a PODS member? Please encourage them to join. The more members we have, the more the data model and data interchange standards will grow.

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The Funnies

Pitfalls of Census Data from US Census Bureau Working Paper Series No. 56:

“The Spanish origin population in 1970 was overstated in some states, especially in the Midwest and South, because some respondents interpreted the questionnaire category of “Central or South American” to mean central or southern United States.”

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0076.html>

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PODS Association Activity Calendar

2/1/2007	Begin nominations for the 2007 Board of Directors
	Send nominations to the Executive Director; nominations end March 2, 2007
2/26/2007	2007 ESRI Petroleum User Conference
	Stop by the PODS Booth and talk with the Executive Director, as well as members of the Technical Committee and Board of Directors
3/2/2007	End nominations for the 2007 Board of Directors
	Nominations end at close of business today
3/12/2007	Begin voting for 2007 Board of Directors
	An email will be sent to the primary contact for each member company; one vote per company will be accepted.
3/23/2007	End voting for 2007 Board of Directors
	Voting ends at close of business today
4/15/2007	PODS 4.1 Release to Membership for comments
	Patches: Details to come soon
	Suggested Domain Values for select features. Details to come soon.
5/1/2007	PODS 5.0 Release Date To Be Announced
	The PODS Spatial Committee is diligently working with several partners on joint efforts to spatialize our data model on a variety of platforms. By the end of the April, we hope to finalize the scope of the proposed changes, and estimate the time it will take to implement these recommendations, resulting in a release date of PODS 5.0 which will incorporate the results of this significant collaboration.
6/18/2007	2007 ESRI User Conference
	The PODS association's Executive Director is planning on hosting a one hour user reception at the 2007 ESRI User Conference. Selected members of the Technical Committee, and the Board of Directors will also be in attendance. Details to come soon.

PODS Executive Director:

Sheila Wilson

PODS Board of Directors:

Officers:

President: J W Lucas, *Enterprise*
Vice President: Kenneth Greer, *CenterPoint Energy*
Secretary: Sarah Johnson, *Sunoco Logistics*
Treasurer: Ron Brush, *New Century Software*

Board Members:

Andy Kendrick, *Kendrick Consulting*
Daniel Colby, *Sentinel USA*
Mark Goodman, *ONEOK*
Michael King, *BP*
Scott Hills, *Chevron*
Keith Leewis, *P-PIC*

PODS Technical Committee:

Co-Chairmen:

Gary Hoover, *Enterprise*
Costas Kotzabassis, *BITS*

Committee Members:

Bryan Ferguson, *BP*
Dave Cullom, *Washington State Utilities*
Jay Williams, *ConocoPhillips*
John Chioles, *Chevron*
Kirk Cameron, *New Century Software*
Michael Ray, *Texas Gas Transmission*
Rod Burden, *Moore Resources*
Rodger Weller, *GE*
Scott Moravec, *Eagle Information Mapping*
Teresa Young, *GeoFields*

PODS Committees & Working Groups:

Spatial Implementation Committee
Inline Inspection Integrity Data Interchange
ECDA Integrity Data Interchange
PODS Fine Grain Security
One Call (in development)

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